

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A liquid crystal display element comprising:
a polarization plate having a first average
refractive index for a direction perpendicular to a
display plane and a second average refractive index in
a direction parallel to the display plane;

10 a phase difference plate having a first average
refractive index for a direction perpendicular to the
display plane and a second average refractive index for
a direction parallel to the display plane;

15 a liquid crystal layer having a first average
refractive index for a direction perpendicular to the
display plane and a second average refractive index for
a direction parallel to the display plane; and

20 a selectively reflective layer for reflecting part
or whole of circularly polarized light in a specific
direction, the selectively reflective layer having a
first average refractive index for a direction
perpendicular to the display plane and a second average
refractive index for a direction parallel to the
display plane;

25 the polarization plate, phase difference plate,
liquid crystal layer, and selectively reflective layer
being formed so that the absolute value of the sum
total of the product of the thickness and the
difference between the first and second average
refractive indexes of the polarization plate, the

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product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the phase difference plate, the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the liquid crystal layer, and the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the selectively reflective layer is 50 nm or less.

2. A liquid crystal display element according to
10 claim 1, wherein said selectively reflective layer is formed of one or a plurality of layers of a cholesteric liquid crystal, and one or more layers having positive refractive index anisotropy are arranged adjacent to the selectively reflective layer or with one or more organic layers being interposed therebetween.

15 3. A liquid crystal display element according to
claim 2, wherein at least one of said layers having positive refractive index anisotropy is formed of a discotic liquid crystal.

20 4. A liquid crystal display element according to
claim 2, wherein at least one of said layers having positive refractive index anisotropy includes a reflective layer for reflecting specifically polarized light, light in a specific wavelength zone, or
25 specifically polarized light in a specific wavelength zone only, out of incident light.

5. A liquid crystal display element comprising:

a polarization plate;
a phase difference plate;
a liquid crystal layer; and
a selectively reflective layer,

the selectively reflective layer including one or more reflective layers for reflecting specifically polarized light, light in a specific wavelength zone, or specifically polarized light in a specific wavelength zone only, out of incident light, the one or more reflective layers having positive refractive index anisotropy as a whole.

6. A method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display element, the method comprising:

vertically aligning a discotic liquid crystal doped with a chiral agent on a transparent first insulating substrate, thereby forming one or more reflective layers having positive refractive index anisotropy;

opposing a transparent second insulating substrate to the first insulating substrate; and sealing in a liquid crystal layer between the first and second insulating substrates.

7. A method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display element according to claim 6, which further comprises forming one or more reflective layers having negative refractive index anisotropy on the first substrate.